

# STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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No. 1

## LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

**Delaware** -- The Delaware legislature, which convened in January, 1959, has met periodically during 1960 and is still in session. The legislature approved in 1960 a constitutional amendment relating to the jurisdiction of the Delaware Supreme Court and its appellate procedures. A new act regulates retail installment sales, including provisions on sales contracts and maximum service charges. Another act regulates the financing of automobile sales. The legislature adopted a revised salary schedule for teachers. It established a Division Against Discrimination in the Labor Commission to enforce an act forbidding discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color, national origin or age.

**New Jersey** -- The New Jersey legislature, which convened on January 12, 1960, was still in session at the end of the year. In accordance with recent practice, it met periodically during the year, and was not expected to adjourn finally until the convening of the 1961 session, on January 10.

An appropriation act of \$431,883,569 for fiscal 1961 was adopted, as was a supplemental appropriation of \$4 million for 1960. To finance construction of new buildings at various state universities and institutions, the legislature approved an increase in the cigarette tax from 5 to 6 cents a pack and a \$40 million bond issue. If the bond issue is approved by the voters in November, 1961, the cigarette tax rate will drop back to 5 cents; if the bond issue is rejected the higher rate becomes permanent. Hunting and fishing license fees were increased.

Counties were authorized to determine the ratio of true value at which all property within a county will be assessed. The ratio may be any figure between 20 and 100

per cent of true value.

A commission was established to provide for development of a public market area for the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region. A plan was adopted under which the state may enter into contracts with commuter railroads and provide subsidies to help maintain passenger service on the lines. Subsidies for the first year were to total \$6 million.

The legislature authorized the Highway Commissioner to set special speed limits for trucks lower than those prescribed for automobiles. It adopted a consumer fraud act, the Uniform Securities Act, a retail installment sales act, and a special act regulating installment contracts for home repairs. The state's Limited Dividend Housing Corporation Act was amended to increase the maximum rate of return permitted and to raise the amount to be paid to municipalities in lieu of taxes on projects constructed under the act.

The legislature authorized the state to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states relating to unemployment compensation payments. Municipalities wishing to cooperate in provision of joint services were authorized to take such action by ordinance rather than referendum.

The Governor was empowered to appoint additional county judges, and the rules of evidence for the courts were revised.

Soil conservation districts were permitted to acquire land by gift or purchase and with the approval of the state, by condemnation. A special Senate committee was created to study the financial structure and operation of the Port of New York Authority.

**Correcting the Record** -- The Autumn Issue of *State Government*, in reporting "Action by the Legislatures: 1960," recorded a raise in travel per diem for employees of Alaska state boards from \$20 to \$25 and for state workers and officials from \$15 to \$20. In fact, the raises were from \$20 to \$35 for members of state boards, and state employee per diem was

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raised from \$15 to \$21. The review also noted that a conservation board was established in the Department of Agriculture. Alaska does not have a "Department" of Agriculture. However, a Soil Conservation Board in the Division of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, was reorganized.

#### CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS

Oregon and Utah voters in last November's election approved constitutional amendments providing for continuity of government in event of emergency. The amendment was approved in all fourteen states voting on the proposal in November. (See "Constitutional Amendments, Direct Legislation," *State Government News*, December, 1960, also "Civil Government and Nuclear Warfare," October, 1960.)

Two other states previously approved the amendment -- California in 1958 and Michigan in 1959.

#### TAX, FISCAL AFFAIRS

**Fiscal Study Committee** -- An Accounting Improvement Committee has been established in New York by the joint action of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and Comptroller Arthur Levitt. The committee will study the overall accounting system of the state, with the objective of establishing procedures which will provide the Governor, department heads, the legislature, and the public with accurate data as a basis for making important fiscal decisions.

The committee will consider the possibility of delegating some accounting functions to departments and agencies; establishment of an accounting system to provide comparative cost data; proper use of cash and accrual accounting; coordination of financial reporting with the budget process; putting property accounting on a monetary basis; further extension of electronic data processing; and training of state personnel in accounting.

The committee consists of a Deputy Budget Director, a Deputy Comptroller and a representative of the state Certified Public Accountant Society.

**Severance Tax Upheld** -- Lawsuits against the State of Colorado seeking to regain \$3.5 million in taxes paid on gross income from oil and gas production have been dropped voluntarily by twenty-five firms and individuals that had challenged the constitutionality of a 1953 statute.

Withdrawal of the suits followed refusal by the United States Supreme Court to reconsider its decision disallowing the claim of a leading producer in the state for recovery of close to \$2 million in taxes. The ruling upheld an earlier decision of the Colorado Supreme Court and the original finding of the Denver District Court, where the suits were filed.

In challenging the graduated levy on oil and gas production the suits claimed the tax violated both the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and a state constitutional provision guaranteeing equal treatment to all citizens and taxpayers. At stake in the court test were some \$20 million in taxes collected since 1953.

#### EDUCATION

**School Finance Study** -- The Alaska Board of Education has appointed a thirteen-member citizens advisory council to study the financing of school operations in the state. Financed largely by a Ford Foundation grant, the survey will be assisted by three professional experts from California.

**Planning for Future Schools** -- The Hawaii Department of Public Instruction has scheduled a month-long planning session to deal with the basic pattern of future schools in the state. A new high school and a new elementary school will be the immediate problems for the sessions.

The session will involve both building services and curricula personnel from the department, as well as classroom teachers. They will seek means for integrating into the schools' operation the latest developments in education, including maximum use of school buildings, team teaching and educational television. Administrators from the state, district and school levels of the educational system will attend the sessions. The planning will have the assistance in its early phase of experienced educators from the mainland. Their services will be paid for from a grant from the Educational Facilities Laboratory, a subsidiary of the Ford Foundation.

**Higher Education Plan** -- An Indiana Conference for Higher Education on November 11 adopted a statement outlining a Plan for Higher Education designed to maintain a balance in undergraduate enrollments between private and public institutions in the state.

A similar plan was put into operation following World War II. It provided for a 50-50 ratio relating to enrollments between

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private and public higher education institutions. The program was designed to utilize existing facilities to the utmost, eliminating need for additional institutions. It is credited with having minimized competition between institutions and providing effective use of tax and private funds.

The plan adopted at the November meeting provides estimates of enrollment through 1965 and 1970. The estimates also cover future capital, operation, personnel and curriculum needs. Each college president of the cooperating institutions has established long-range plans for increasing facilities so that the projected enrollment can be accommodated. The estimates submitted indicate that the balance between the institutions will be maintained through 1970. The plan anticipates additional income for the institutions beyond 1970, so that the balance may be maintained indefinitely.

#### HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC CONTROL

Maryland Point System -- A new Maryland law went into effect January 1 providing for a point system for traffic violations.

Points will be assessed on the following basis: violations not contributing to an accident, 1 point; speeding 10 miles per hour above the posted limit, 3; drunken driving, hit-and-run personal injury accidents, or driving with suspended, revoked or fraudulent permits, 12. Most drivers will be allowed up to 12 points, after which their permits will be automatically revoked.

Eight points bring a two-to-thirty day suspension; 5 points a conference with the Department of Motor Vehicles; and 3 points a warning letter. Professional drivers, such as truckers, bus operators and deliverymen, will be allowed 50 per cent more points than the average motorist. Points will cease to count against a driver after two years.

Another law provides for driving permits subject to renewal every two years. This measure marks the end of the state's lifetime driving licenses.

New Motor Vehicle Department -- A New York Department of Motor Vehicles was established on January 3, 1961. Previously, motor vehicle functions in the state were administered by a bureau in the Tax Department. The change was made as a result of a constitutional amendment approved by the electorate in 1959. Creation of the new department reflects the great importance of the work of the new agency which is responsible, among other things, for licensing more than 5 million vehicles and more than 7 million drivers.

Uniform Traffic Control Devices -- The Bureau of Public Roads, United States Department of Commerce, has given official approval to a manual on uniform traffic control devices.

The new standards are contained in a Manual drafted by a National Joint Committee

on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and recently approved by the committee's member organizations -- the American Association of State Highway Officials, the Institute of Traffic Engineers, the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances, the American Municipal Association and the National Association of County Officials.

The Manual, first written in 1935, has been revised periodically to include refinements in the design and application of control devices for guidance and management of traffic. The newest edition includes specific standards for expressway signing, signing and marking for construction and maintenance operations, and civil defense signing.

Under existing federal highway legislation the signs, signals and markings installed on highways constructed with federal funds are subject to approval by the state highway departments with concurrence of the Federal Highway Administrator. The bureau has announced that it will use its authority to approve only such traffic control devices as will conform to the new Manual.

Recodify Highway Laws -- The Wyoming Highway Commission has agreed unanimously with the conclusions of a study by the Automotive Safety Foundation that the state's highway laws should be recodified and reenacted to bring them up to standards needed to effect safer, more efficient highway travel.

The Commission recommended that the legislature appoint a group to study needs in this area. It suggested that the study group be composed of one member from each house of the legislature and a member from the commission, a county official, a municipal official and a representative from the highway users group. The Commissioners proposed that the study group begin by considering specific recommendations advanced by the Automotive Safety Foundation following a review by it of Wyoming highway matters.

Utility Relocation -- The Montana Supreme Court in a 3-2 decision has upheld the constitutionality of a 1957 law requiring the state to pay 75 per cent of the cost of utility relocation made necessary by highway construction. Sustaining the finding of a state district court, the majority ruling said the legislature had expressly declared that the definition of "cost of highway construction" is to include "cost of relocating utility facilities." The court held that this was a reasonable definition, adopted by Congress and approved by a majority of courts of last resort in states where the matter has arisen.

Concerning the state's constitutional provision prohibiting diversion of highway tax money for nonhighway purposes, the majority opinion held: "Montana's antidiversion amendment does not define the words, 'construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public highways, roads, streets



and bridges.'" The court further stated that to give the words a narrow interpretation would seriously curtail and limit the Highway Commission in its activities.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Economic Development recently acquired 759 acres of land for public use as a natural wilderness area. The purchase was made possible by a grant from the Old Dominion Foundation. The property, on the eastern shore of the state, consists of high land, marsh and two miles of beach frontage.

Under terms of the foundation grant, the department has agreed to abide by certain standards for maintenance of the area. These exclude private motor vehicles, prohibit hunting and trapping, provide for a minimum of buildings, and forbid cutting of timber or agricultural operation. Standards also provide for the care and feeding of wildlife.

#### INTERSTATE WATER CONFERENCE

The Third Annual Interstate Conference on Water Problems was held in Chicago on December 5-6. Some seventy officials from twenty-eight states participated.

Major addresses were given by United States Senator Philip A. Hart of Michigan; Gilbert F. White, Chairman of the Department of Geography, University of Chicago; Marvin C. Nichols, Chairman of the Texas Water Development Board; Irving K. Fox, Vice President of Resources for the Future; and Paul R. Bonderson, Executive Officer of the California State Water Pollution Control Board.

Topics discussed included flood control, flood plain regulation and flood insurance; problems of coordination of water resources programs at all levels of government; achieving optimum benefit from water resources development; and the importance of water quality in water resources management.

Resolutions adopted by the Conference called for strengthening of state water resources agencies; state and local government action to provide adequate flood plain zoning and regulation; use of interstate-federal compacts where appropriate for achieving coordination; and constraint by Congress of efforts by its committees to intervene in the internal operations of interstate agencies.

Robert L. Smith, Executive Secretary of the Kansas Water Resources Board, was elected Chairman of the Conference. Other officers elected are Sam A. Thompson, Chairman of the Mississippi Board of Water Commissioners, First Vice-Chairman; R. M. Dixon, Member of the Texas State Board of Water Engineers, Second Vice-Chairman; and Garland Hershey, Iowa State Geologist, Secretary-Treasurer.

Additional members elected to the Executive Committee are William S. Wise, Director

of the Connecticut Water Resources Commission; John W. Wakefield, Director of the Florida Department of Water Resources; Donel J. Lane, Secretary of the Oregon Water Resources Board; H. B. Holmes, Jr., Virginia Commissioner of Water Resources; Blucher A. Poole, Technical Secretary of the Indiana Stream Pollution Control Board. Harvey O. Banks, former Director of the California Department of Water Resources and immediate past Chairman of the Conference, is ex officio a member of the Executive Committee.

#### RECIPROCAL SUPPORT CONFERENCE

The Ninth Annual Interstate Conference on Reciprocal Support met in Los Angeles December 5-8. Approximately 100 state, federal, and local officials attended the meeting, held under the joint sponsorship of the Office of the District Attorney of Los Angeles County and the Council of State Governments. Harold Pressman, Deputy District Attorney of Los Angeles County, served as conference chairman. The group was welcomed by William B. McKesson, Los Angeles County District Attorney. Attorney General Stanley Mosk of California addressed the group at the Conference banquet.

The Conference approved a resolution urging Congress to adopt certain amendments to Title IV, Sec. 402A(10) of the Social Security Act, which now requires that law enforcement officials be notified when Aid to Dependent Children is furnished in cases of abandonment by a parent. The suggested amendments would make such notification mandatory only when there is reason to believe the parent can furnish support. They would also require that the notification include available information as to the parents' whereabouts and financial circumstances, and would require states to furnish this type of information to other states upon request.

The Conference adopted another resolution urging Congress and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to take action to make the address records of the federal Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance readily available to state and local officials as an aid in locating persons in connection with reciprocal support proceedings, especially in cases involving public assistance. Such records are now available only to welfare officials when Aid to Dependent Children funds are involved.

Other major Conference action included adoption of resolutions opposing the charging of fees against persons petitioning for support payments and urging states to adopt the 1958 draft of the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act. The Conference authorized publication of a Handbook of Administrative Procedures for use under the act. It adopted a motion reiterating its 1959 view that matters of custody and visitation should not affect support duties in reciprocal support proceedings. Reconsideration of the Conference's 1959 resolu-

tion in this regard had been requested by the Southern Regional Support Conference in 1960.

Senator Donald P. Dunklee of Colorado was elected Chairman of the 1960-61 Executive Committee of the Conference.

### THE COURTS

Connecticut on January 1 abolished a system of local courts staffed by local judges or justices of the peace. Replacing them is a Circuit Court system with forty-four traveling, full-time judges. They will be paid \$15,000 a year. The law abolishing the former system was approved by the 1959 legislature.

Jay E. Rubinow has been appointed Chief Judge of the newly established State Circuit Court. Over the last several months he has been directing the establishment of the circuits, eighteen in number, and arranging for court facilities.

Two towns have had to supply completely new buildings. Other towns have had to make minor to major alterations. Jury trials were not formerly held in local courts so in some sites jury facilities have had to be provided -- jury box, chairs and retiring rooms. Under terms of the act creating the circuit system the state contributes financially only to the cost of supplying jury facilities.

### COURT DECISIONS

Court Upholds Phone Conviction -- The New Jersey Supreme Court has upheld the conviction of a person who did not yield a telephone party line to a physician in an emergency. The court stressed that the case was "one of first impression, not only in this state but in the country as well, as no reported decision has been found in the twenty-nine other states which have, to date, passed similar statutes." The court voted 6-0 to affirm a disorderly person conviction and a \$200 fine imposed by a County Court.

Ban Trading Stamps -- The Wyoming State Supreme Court has reversed a district court decision and upheld the constitutionality of a 1959 law forbidding use of trading stamps in the state. The lower court had ruled that the act exceeded the police powers of the legislature and discriminated against trading stamp companies as other promotional devices were not outlawed.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mississippi Port Facility -- Mississippi, following eighteen months of negotiations, has obtained title and development responsibility for the \$10 million dock facilities of the City of Gulfport. A local state port authority will be responsible for operations, under supervision of the Mississippi Agri-

cultural and Industrial Board. The first \$3 million stage of a \$10 million long-range expansion program will be launched immediately.

In a parallel development Governor Ross R. Barnett has announced plans to support establishment of a state "team" based at Gulfport to foster cultural and economic ties with Latin America in a manner similar to the Pan American trade program of New Orleans.

Economic Data Maps -- The West Virginia Economic Development Agency has published the first in a series of economic data maps, West Virginia Economic Atlas, Economic Statistical Series 1.

Included in the brochure, of 24 pages, are statewide maps showing population changes, income, transportation and electrical power facilities, precipitation, parks and forests, local governmental units and seven "economic units." The state has been divided into the seven units by the development agency as part of its continuing responsibility to prepare a master plan for West Virginia's physical, social and economic development.

A second series of maps, now in the research stage, will cover natural resources, production and employment, and educational facilities. A state Industrial Directory also is nearing completion. L. E. Ward, Jr., is Executive Director of the Development Agency, created in 1959.

### METROPOLITAN AREAS

The California Governor's Commission on Metropolitan Problems has issued a report recommending legislation to establish a state planning agency for metropolitan government. It further urged that each of nine urban areas be permitted to establish a single, multi-purpose agency with taxing and bonding powers to provide areawide services. Each district would be established by majority vote of the electorate in the area and governed by a council formed by its cities and counties.

Any city or county in the district would be able to contract for any or all of the services provided. These would include metropolitan planning, air pollution control, water, sewage and disposal services, transportation and terminals, parks and parkways, law enforcement, fire protection, urban renewal and civil defense. The commission further recommended that annexation laws be changed to permit cities to initiate annexation of bordering inhabited territory. At present, annexation can be initiated only on petition from the voters in an unincorporated area.

The report noted: "Although local governments have kept things going in the metropolitan areas, they are not presently equipped to plan, budget and program ahead for the entire metropolitan area. There now exist areawide complexes with areawide problems and needs beyond the capacity of

one or a few local units of government to solve." The report added that establishment of special districts in unincorporated urban areas had created excessive discrepancies in the level and cost of urban services within the same metropolitan area.

#### REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS

**Montana** -- The Montana Legislative Council has announced completion of a two-year study of state government organization and administration. It has published a 76-page report recommending formulation by the next Legislative Council of a blueprint for future guidance in long-range reorganization of the executive branch.

While finding some advantages in boards and commissions, the report concluded that the extent to which they have been used in Montana undoubtedly has weakened both the policy-making role of the legislature and the responsibility of the executive. The study also concluded that "strengthening of the Office of Governor would not only strengthen the legislative branch by providing some insurance that its policies would be carried out, but would free it from the necessity of concerning itself with details that should be left to administrators."

As the main deterrents to a strong Governor's office the report listed the long ballot, long overlapping terms of administrative officers over whom the Governor has no removal power, and the irresponsiveness of executive agencies.

The report indicated that the primary deficiency is not in the actual number of separate officials, departments, boards and commissions but in "the unattached or 'floating' position of many agencies which are not responsible to the Governor, the legislature or the people."

**Oregon** -- Governor Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon has made public the details of a plan for reorganization of the executive branch of that state's government, to be presented to the 1961 legislature. The Governor noted that his proposals were based on recommendations of an advisory committee headed by two former Governors (State Government News, July, 1960). However, the plan as proposed by the Governor now goes further -- toward establishment of a cabinet form of government.

It proposes retention of the existing Department of Education and consolidation of nearly all other administrative activities into seven new departments -- social services, transportation and utilities, public safety, natural resources, labor, commerce, and revenue. Directors of the departments would be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Division heads within each department generally would be appointed by its director with the approval of the Governor. Division heads, in turn, would appoint the various commissions. With some exceptions

the commissions would have advisory and appeal functions.

The Governor would continue to appoint members of the Board of Education and the Board of Higher Education. He also would continue to appoint the Adjutant General and the Superintendent of State Police, but both officials would serve as division heads within the Department of Public Safety.

Governor Hatfield's report points out that the proposed plan constitutes only a beginning at state reorganization. The recommendations focus on the program agencies of the executive branch; further attention, it was indicated, needs to be given to the staff agencies. Changing state conditions and responsibilities, with corresponding changes in interagency relations as well as experience with the recommended reorganization, the report concludes, will develop new areas for consideration that would be the continuing responsibility of each Governor and legislature.

**Utah** -- Governor George D. Clyde of Utah has announced that he will propose at least limited reorganization of state government to the 1961 legislature. The Governor said the most pressing need is for establishment of executive posts for budgeting, personnel and planning, directly under the Governor's Office.

He noted that direct authority over all three functions is required if the Governor is to operate effectively. Personnel and budgeting now are divisions of the State Finance Commission, an agency of the State Board of Examiners. The board is composed of the elected officers of the state. The new position for planning is intended to help state agencies develop cooperative long-range programs.

**Wyoming** -- In one of his last acts as Chief Executive of Wyoming before becoming United States Senator, Governor J. J. Hickey recently announced publication of a two-volume study with outlines for state government reorganization in nine representative departments.

An earlier report recommended elimination of many boards and commissions and the transfer of their powers to a board comprising the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and State Superintendent of Education.

The more recent study is aimed at determining the most efficient way of establishing a centralized accounting system and a management decision information center. Nine state departments were selected for intensive study -- Auditor, Treasurer, revenue, education, charities and reform, personnel, liquor, state hospital, and state penitentiary.

Among specific recommendations of the study are (1) adoption of accounting procedures utilizing an electronic Univac total system concept; (2) establishment of a Department of Administration to consolidate the Governor's present staff services and to



institute a central management staff service available to all state agencies; (3) reorganization of the Revenue Department according to functions; (4) a continuous, detailed study of the organization and administration of all state agencies; (5) measures against diffusion of authority in departmental research within the University of Wyoming.

Noting that the studies were intended as an overall picture and an outline for a long-range plan for reorganization, Governor Hickey said he hoped a start would be made on implementing legislation at the 1961 legislature. One measure in which he was particularly interested is establishment of a Department of Administration. As proposed, the department would be headed by a Director of Administration under whom would be departments of personnel, budget and administrative management, purchasing and property management, general services and, perhaps, revenue.

#### LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES, PROCEDURES

**Orientation Conference** -- The Oregon legislature has for the first time scheduled a special orientation conference on legislative practices and procedures. Sponsored by the Legislative Counsel Committee, it is set for January 10, with the goal of providing members with information which will be useful in filling their everyday functions as legislators. The committee felt that since legislatures function on a cyclical basis, and the turnover in membership is usually high, legislative practices and procedures frequently do not reflect recent advances in public administration. Another purpose is to gain some public recognition of legislative problems and efforts to improve performance.

Topics of discussion for the conference include bill introduction procedure, engrossing and enrolling, parliamentary procedure, rules, services available to legislators, and committee meetings and hearings. Highlight of a luncheon session will be an address by Former Governor Charles A. Sprague, now editor of the Oregon Statesman.

**Tennessee Legislative-Executive Session** -- The Tennessee Legislative Council Committee and the executive branch of the state government sponsored a legislative orientation session in Nashville on November 17. In previous years the conference had been sponsored only by the Legislative Council and was held in three sections of the state on different dates.

Participants in the November meeting included cabinet officers. They were available to discuss and answer questions concerning their respective departments as a supplement to a program presented by the Legislative Council.

**Utah Pre-Legislative Conference** -- Members of Utah's 1961 legislature met in a pre-

session conference on December 9. Following a welcome address by Governor George D. Clyde, the legislators received a summary of a Legislative Council report outlining major problems that would have to be dealt with in the forthcoming session.

Summary findings and recommendations of the council's major study committees, and reports on activities of a new State Coordinating Council on Higher Education, were topics of other discussions.

A series of rule changes designed to streamline and speed up legislative procedure were proposed. The suggested changes would provide for pre-session filing of bills, a brief and concise statement of purpose accompanying each bill, reduction in the number and size of committees, and an electric roll-call system for the House of Representatives.

**Wyoming Legislators' School** -- Wyoming's second Legislators' School was held January 6-7 at the University of Wyoming Law School in preparation for the opening of the regular biennial legislative session on January 10.

The pre-session schools were initiated two years ago in advance of the 1959 legislative meeting. Sponsored by the University Law School in cooperation with state officials and experienced legislators, the Legislators' School is directed particularly to informing freshman lawmakers on legislative procedures and responsibilities.

On the program this time were discussions of the purpose and organization of the legislature, the lawmaking process, the relationship of the legislature with the courts and the press, and the functions of the Office of Attorney General.

**Bill Drafting Manual** -- Montana has begun preparation of the state's first bill drafting manual, scheduled for publication next spring. The volume is being developed by the Legislative Council's Bill Drafter and Attorney, Robert Tucker. It is intended to be a technical guide, keyed to Montana law, and is based on a detailed study of the Montana constitution, statutes, decisions of the State Supreme Court, rules of the House and Senate, and decisions of courts in other states. It will include a writing-style guide, emphasizing short sentences and clear, precise use of words and grammar. When published the manual will be distributed to all attorneys in the state, legislators and other interested persons.

#### NORTHEASTERN INTERSTATE MEETING

The Commissions on Interstate Cooperation in ten northeastern states will meet for a one-day conference in Hartford, Connecticut, on January 27. On the agenda are consideration of residence requirements for voting, including special provisions for voting in Presidential elections, the Interstate Compact

on the Placement of Children, and the Drivers' License Compact recently developed by officials in the western states. The Connecticut Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation will be host for the meeting.

#### SUGGESTED STATE LEGISLATION

Suggested State Legislation -- Program for 1961, developed by the Council of State Governments' Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation, has been distributed for consideration by the states.

The program includes seventeen proposals accompanied by draft legislation. Among them are a state radiation control act; continuity of government legislation; a records management act; a preservation of essential records act; an interstate compact on the placement of children; legislation governing residence requirements for public assistance; an interstate welfare compact; and an act facilitating intergovernmental cooperation. Other acts deal with regulation of private employment agencies; degree mills; granting of releases in personal injury cases; new residents' and nonresidents' motor vehicle registration; regulation of the characteristics of manmade structures near airports; a state humane slaughter act; a municipal police training act; recreational facilities; and the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or by the Inter-American Development Bank.

Subjects treated without specific drafts of legislation include a model state vital statistics act, a standard family court act and a standard juvenile court act. The

report also presents, without specific acts, legislative proposals on labeling of hazardous substances, discrimination in employment because of age, workmen's compensation, educational institutions in urban renewal areas, litter prevention on public waters, radiation fallout protection and shelter incentive, food, drug, and cosmetic act amendments, and air pollution control.

Six new uniform acts are presented as promulgated in 1960 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Included are a Uniform Securities Ownership by Minors Act, Uniform Act on Paternity, Uniform Testamentary Additions to Trusts Act, Model Act Providing Remedies for the Unauthorized Practice of Law, Amendments to Model Act to Provide for an Administrator for the State Courts, and Amendments to the Uniform Acknowledgment Act.

The committee also has published a Supplement to the Program for 1961 containing five suggested acts dealing with the development and regulation of sources of ionizing radiation. The supplement gathers together all proposals of the committee both current and past, on atomic energy regulation. The proposals are on Coordination of Atomic Development, Shoe Fitting X-Ray Fluoroscopes, Public Liability of State and Local Licensees for Atomic Incidents, Workmen's Compensation Coverage in Light of Radiation Hazards, and State Radiation Control.

The Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation is composed of legislators, Attorneys General or their deputies, members of State Commissions on Interstate Cooperation, Uniform Law Commissioners, legislative service personnel and other state officials.



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